



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
(Docket No. 12761US02)

In the Application of:

James K. Ward et al.

Serial No.: 10/675,438

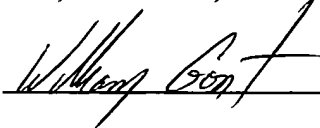
Filed: September 30, 2003

For: APPARATUS AND METHOD
FOR FORMING A BUTT
SPLICE

Examiner: Not yet assigned

Group Art Unit: Not yet assigned

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.



Date: December 2, 2003

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria VA 22313-1450

Dear Sirs:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.97-1.98 and in compliance with the duty of disclosure set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, it is respectfully requested that the following references be considered in the examination of the above-identified patent application:

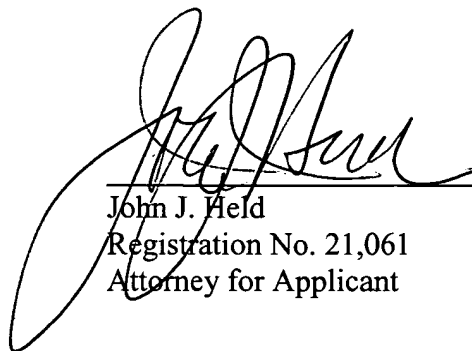
<u>U.S. Pat. No.</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Name</u>
4,519,858	May 28, 1985	Martin
4,801,342	January 31, 1989	Wheeler et al.

The above-identified reference(s) are listed on the attached Form PTO-1449. This submission is in no way intended as an admission that the above-cited references constitute prior art. Applicant expressly retains the right to take any actions necessary to

remove the above-cited references from the available prior art. Consideration of the above-identified references in the examination of the present patent application is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees that may be required or credit any overpayment to Account No. 13-0017.

Respectfully submitted,



John J. Held
Registration No. 21,061
Attorney for Applicant

December 2, 2003
Date

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Form PTO-1449
(Rev. 8-83)U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.

SERIAL NO.

12761US02

10/675,438

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION
(Use several sheets if necessary)

APPLICANT:

James K. Ward et al.

FILING DATE

September 30, 2003

GROUP

ART UNIT:

Not yet assigned

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

*EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	A	4,519,858	5/28/1985	Martin			
	B	4,801,342	1/31/1989	Wheeler et al.			
	C						
	D						
	E						
	F						
	G						
	H						
	I						

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION	
							YES	NO

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

	AA	
	BB	
	CC	

EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED

*EXAMINER: Initial citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.